III. REMARKS

Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 16, 18-20 and 28-62 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 12-15, 17 and 21-27 are cancelled herein. By this amendment, claims 10, 11 and 28 have been amended. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 2-8, 16, 18-20 and 29-62 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 10, 11 and 28 are objected to but appear to be allowable if rewritten to incorporate all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claims 10, 11 and 28 by merely rewriting in independent claim format. Accordingly, Applicant contends that claims 10, 11 and 28 are now in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the objection.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 9, 12-15, 17 and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over IEEE paper entitled "Timing Minimization by Statistical hMctis-based Partitioning" authored by Ababei *et al.* (hereinafter "Ababei"). In response, claims 1, 9, 12-15, 17 and 21-27 have been cancelled.
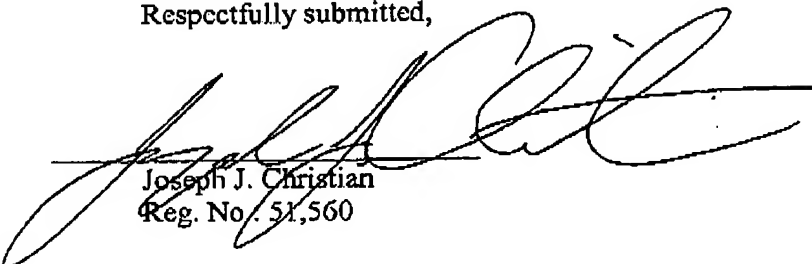
IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application

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in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned

representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 27, 2006

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